

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 4
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2013.

Preliminary harvest reports from the July 2 opening indicate a harvest of 325 king; 3,158 sockeye; and 2,698 chum salmon. Sockeye and chum salmon harvests are slightly below average, with king salmon harvest being well below average. There is still a conservation concern for king salmon, which will spread out the commercial fishing periods until the middle of July. At that time, it is anticipated that the normal commercial fishing schedule will resume.

In District 4, the subsistence salmon fishing closures have been reduced to 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period, for the remainder of the commercial salmon season. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Arolik and Kanektok rivers and waters of District 4 on Saturday, July 6, at 1:00 a.m. Subsistence fishing will reopen on Sunday, July 7, at 1:00 a.m.**

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2013. The open area for this period is reduced.

The temporary boundary line will continue to be in place, from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. The boundary line is marked with buoys. District 5 will be open from this line to the western boundary of District 5 on the outside of the North and South Spits. The outside boundary is marked by ADF&G regulatory markers on the beaches.

The open area of District 5 is reduced for the conservation of king salmon. ADF&G has determined that catches of king salmon on the Platinum side of the district are lower than catches on the Goodnews side of the district. This reduced area opening is an attempt to target abundant sockeye salmon while conserving king salmon. ADF&G will assess the catches from Saturday's period before making a decision on the next opening.

Preliminary harvest reports from the first two periods indicate a harvest of 62 king; 4,915 sockeye; and 2,435 chum salmon. Sockeye and chum salmon harvests are slightly below average, with king salmon harvest being well below average. With the conservation concern for king salmon still in place, the commercial salmon fishing periods will be spread out more until the middle of July. At that time, it is anticipated that the normal commercial fishing schedule will resume.

In District 5, the subsistence salmon fishing closures have been reduced to 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period, for the remainder of the commercial salmon season. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Goodnews River and waters of District 5 by 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 6. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 7.**

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for this upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.